

Dr. Legaspi Lesson 5

Student Guide

**How does the establishment of a monarchy in the Promised Land relate to God's promises to Abraham and the narrative we have examined so far?**

1. What did we learn last class? Review your notes and rewrite a key point or takeaway that you found significant. If you were absent, your job is to review the student guide from last class and then ask your fellow students questions about the points they're about to share.

Re-read together Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

2. What are the requirements to be king of Israel? What is significant about these requirements?

Re-read together Deuteronomy 18:14-22.

3. What does this text tell us about what it means to be a prophet in ancient Israel? What is the role of the prophets?

Read together 1 Samuel 8.

4. Does the people's desire for a king seem to be in accord with the instructions for kingship in Deuteronomy 17? Why or why not?
5. Now fill in the points Dr. Legaspi makes in this video clip
  - a. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Judges in the Book of Judges. The pattern in this Book is \_\_\_\_\_, punishment, then God raises up a \_\_\_\_\_, then people get comfortable.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ is anointed king of Israel. (Hint: not David yet!)
  - c. David is \_\_\_\_\_ by Samuel to be king.
  - d. The \_\_\_\_\_ sat at the highest point in the city of Jerusalem.
  - e. God promises to build for David a \_\_\_\_\_ which will be \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Does this early history of the kingdom of Israel look like what was envisioned by God in Deuteronomy 17-18?

In this day and age, we have all used a GPS, probably on our cell phones, at some point. If we are unfamiliar with our destination, we might depend completely on the GPS and not question its judgment as it leads us on. However, we have probably all had the experience of using a GPS to go to a destination with which we are somewhat familiar. In this case, it is not uncommon to become more skeptical of this or that turn the GPS tells us to take. "That can't be right," we say to ourselves. "This way will be much quicker."

7. How does this image apply to this early history of the first two kings of Israel?

8. Any final thoughts?

## Supporting Texts:

*Deut. 17:14-18:22*

### Principles Governing Kings

<sup>14</sup>“When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that *are* around me,’ <sup>15</sup> you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; *one* from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who *is* not your brother. <sup>16</sup> But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ <sup>17</sup> Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

<sup>18</sup>“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. <sup>19</sup> And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, <sup>20</sup> that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left, and that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

### The Portion of the Priests and Levites

**18** “The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion. <sup>2</sup> Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD is their inheritance, as He said to them.

<sup>3</sup>“And this shall be the priest’s due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether *it is* bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach. <sup>4</sup> The firstfruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.

<sup>6</sup>“So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses, <sup>7</sup> then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites *do*, who stand there before the LORD. <sup>8</sup> They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.

### Avoid Wicked Customs

<sup>9</sup>“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. <sup>10</sup> There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or a* soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. <sup>12</sup> For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. <sup>13</sup> You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

### A New Prophet Like Moses

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, <sup>16</sup>according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

<sup>17</sup>“And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. <sup>19</sup>And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ <sup>21</sup>And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’— <sup>22</sup>when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

## *1 Samuel 8*

### Israel Demands a King

**8** Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup>The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they were* judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, <sup>5</sup>and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. <sup>8</sup>According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. <sup>9</sup>Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.”

<sup>10</sup>So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. <sup>11</sup>And he said, “This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint *them* for his own chariots and *to be* his horsemen, and *some* will run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup>He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, *will set some* to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and *some* to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters *to be* perfumers, cooks, and bakers. <sup>14</sup>And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give *them* to his servants. <sup>15</sup>He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. <sup>16</sup>And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young

men,<sup>[a]</sup> and your donkeys, and put *them* to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. <sup>18</sup> And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

<sup>21</sup> And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> So the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed their voice, and make them a king.”

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Every man go to his city.”